
TREATMENT SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH A MENTAL ILLNESS AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE DISORDER

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOL AND DRUG PROGRAMS

Background:

California's public mental health and substance abuse systems face many challenges in their efforts to serve persons living with both a serious mental illness (SMI) and a substance abuse disorder. This includes adults with serious mental illness and children with serious emotional disturbances. Persons with dual diagnoses require coordinated and integrated services. They have higher rates of homelessness, legal and medical problems; they have more frequent and longer hospitalizations; and overall higher and more costly service utilization rates. In addition, people with serious mental illness and substance abuse disorders present a significant burden in terms of cost to the criminal justice system. In recognition of these facts, the 1995-96 Governor's Budget Language set forth the following message to the Departments of Mental Health (DMH) and Alcohol and Drug Programs (ADP) regarding the service/treatment of persons with dual diagnosis.

The Governor's Budget Language:

"The Department of Mental Health estimates that approximately 60 percent of the adults with serious mental illness also have an untreated substance abuse problem. Coordinated and integrated substance abuse services are essential to the proper treatment of this population. The Departments of Mental Health and Alcohol and Drug Programs will be actively exploring methods to eliminate any barriers between the two systems at both the state and local levels."

A portion of the Alcohol and Drug Program population also has an untreated mental illness.

Purpose:

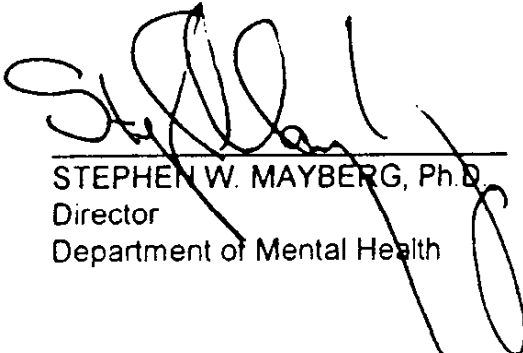
This memorandum is entered into by the respective Departments for the purpose of defining roles and responsibilities. The Departments of Mental Health and Alcohol and Drug Programs recognize the necessity to jointly encourage the implementation and development of programs for the effective treatment of persons who have co-occurring substance disorders and severe psychiatric disorders.

THEREFORE THE DEPARTMENTS AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

The Departments of Mental Health and Alcohol and Drug Programs will work together with counties, to coordinate integrated service treatment, recovery and research models in close cooperation with the California Mental Health Directors Association, County Alcohol and Drug Program Administrators Association of California, providers, and consumers.

- Both Departments will explore alternatives for increased funding for dual diagnosis programs.
- Both Departments will commit staff and other resources to dual diagnosis programs.
- Both Departments will work cooperatively to:
 - a. develop needs assessment methodology
 - b. develop outcome measures
 - c. share information in such a manner as to ensure the ability to track users of both mental health and alcohol and other drug services
- Both Departments will jointly develop a training curriculum for providers of service.
- Both Departments will jointly eliminate administrative barriers to effective services.
- The target population for these efforts will be defined as adults, children and youth with serious mental illness or serious emotional disturbance who also have a substance-related disorder which meets the criteria for substance abuse described in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders Fourth Edition (DSM-IV).

Both Departments recognize that the activities of this MOU, if successfully performed, will result in improved access and improved outcomes of this population.



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AUG 12 1996

Date



ANDREW M. MECCA, Dr.P.H.
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AUG 12 1996

Date